

To: MacIntyre, Mark[Macintyre.Mark@epa.gov]
From: Samantha Wright
Sent: Mon 8/24/2015 3:59:21 PM
Subject: Re: Gold King Mine Inquiry

Okay, thanks for your help. Please add me to your list of press contacts that will be notified of status updates.

Best,

Samantha Wright

Samantha Wright, Reporter
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On Aug 24, 2015, at 9:57 AM, "MacIntyre, Mark" <Macintyre.Mark@epa.gov> wrote:

Samantha: We expect these questions will be answered by the either the internal technical review and the independent external review. We are waiting on the findings of both of those reviews and will make them available to the public.

Mark

From: Samantha Wright [mailto:samantha@sjindependent.org]
Sent: Sunday, August 23, 2015 1:22 PM
To: MacIntyre, Mark
Subject: Re: Gold King Mine Inquiry

Thank you, but several of my questions remain unanswered:

- How was the contractor selected?
- What kind of experience does the contractor have working in mine remediation in the high country of Colorado?
- Were any local experts consulted on the project and/or working on the job site?
- I understand that the EPA began work on the Gold King project last fall. Can you please describe the extent of the work that was done at that time? Is the following statement from the San Juan Corp attorney correct from EPA's standpoint?

"The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, operating under an access agreement obtained from the owner of the Gold King Mine, had begun an investigation regarding the source of contaminated water at the Gold King Mine last year. Upon suspending work last year, the USEPA backfilled the portal to the mine. On August 5th, 2015, while the USEPA was removing the backfill from the portal to the Gold King Mine to continue its investigation this year, the plug blew out releasing contaminated water behind the backfill into the Animas River."

And I would add to my original questions the following:

- Can you verify whether Steve Way, the EPA site coordinator who has been working on the Red & Bonita/Gold King remediation project since its inception, was on vacation when the accident occurred?

Best,

Samantha Wright

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<Screen Shot 2015-02-05 at 3.55.08 PM.jpg>
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On Aug 23, 2015, at 12:20 PM, "MacIntyre, Mark" <Macintyre.Mark@epa.gov>
wrote:

Hi Samantha: I'm following up on your inquiry regarding the Gold King Mine; from our database I'm not sure if you've been responded to. For the latest information that we've released, please see our website www.epa.gov/goldkingmine. MM

Also: Last Friday(8/21), a number of documents related to the incident were made public at the site below:

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/epa-posts-gold-king-mine-file-documents>

Please see this website for historical background on EPA's work in the Animas watershed:

<http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/gold-king-mine-watershed-fact-sheet>

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